

I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East

Hyak to Easton Project

February 2004

Issue 7

Project Update

- Where We've Been
- What We Are Doing Now
- What Will We Be Doing In The Future
- The Final Product

Where We've Been

The project team considered four general route alternatives prior to this update. These routes considered moving the freeway away from the current route, but due to feasibility concerns, the route following the existing alignment was selected.

Low impact alternatives were considered to reduce congestion, replace deteriorated pavement, and improve safety, with little or no change to the existing route. Alternatives such as light rail, HOV lanes, and continued repaving were eliminated, due to high cost and limited benefits in the mountainous setting along the route. Total reconstruction options with six lanes and long life pavement were recommended, for evaluation in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

What We Are Doing Now

The project team is currently working on completing the DEIS for the project this summer. As a part of this, we are working with resource agencies in the development of mitigation strategies for inclusion into the DEIS. Earlier this winter, WSDOT received comments from these resource agencies, suggesting revisions to the DEIS. We are now reviewing and addressing these comments, the DEIS will be revised as appropriate.

Preliminary design work is also being done in conjunction with the preparation of the DEIS. The DEIS will evaluate several alternative alignments along Lake Keechelus, as well as different options to provide wildlife crossing opportunities throughout the corridor. This will include assessment of impacts for each alternative and evaluation of water crossings. Project phasing, or breaking the 15-mile corridor into smaller projects, is also being evaluated.

Although this project is not funded beyond completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), WSDOT is pursuing alternate funding opportunities as they become available. If this occurs, project design and construction will proceed as funding allows, to begin improvements on this portion of I-90.

What Will We Be Doing In The Future

We are working towards circulation of the DEIS in the summer of 2004. Once the DEIS is circulated, WSDOT will provide a public comment period and hold hearings to collect comments and concerns. These comments will then be used to assist us in the selection of a Preferred Alternative. This Preferred Alternative will be included into the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision (ROD) that will be issued in the summer of 2005.

The Final Product

I-90 will be improved to provide a safer, more efficient route for people and goods traveling across the state. Closures of the highway due to avalanche hazard will be greatly reduced or eliminated. Improvements to the roadway will enhance the movement of wildlife through the project corridor.



Concept of I-90 at Gold Creek Looking East

How can I get involved in this project?

Your thoughts and opinions are important. Later in 2004 we will be having a series of public meetings to present the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We encourage you to participate in the upcoming meetings or contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Timeline of projected EIS activities

Draft EIS/	Fall 2004
Public Hearing	
Final EIS/ROD	Spring/ Summer 2005

I-90 CONTACT INFORMATION

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E-MAIL:

Send an E-mail with your questions, comments, or concerns at:
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TOLL FREE TELEPHONE

Call the project office and leave a message, hear updates, or access general information at:

1-888-535-0738

WEBSITE:

Visit the project web site for information about route alternatives, project background, public meeting announcements, and more at:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I90SnoqualmiePassEast/



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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